

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An apparatus for protecting a fuel system component
2 disposed on an engine body in a vehicle, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 a protector including a first wall and a second wall
5 connected with the first wall, the first and second walls
6 extending toward the engine body and cooperating with each
7 other to surround the fuel system component, the second wall
8 having one end opposed to the engine body with a clearance;
9 and

10 a first fastening member fixing the first wall to the
11 engine body.

1 2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
2 a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having
3 a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body,
4 the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat
5 of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first
6 fastening member and an abutting portion offset from the
7 fixed portion in an axial direction of the first fastening
8 member and opposed to a circumferential side surface of the
9 first boss with a clearance.

1 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
2 a first boss receiving the first fastening member and having
3 a seat, the first boss being provided on the engine body,
4 the first wall including a fixed portion fixed to the seat
5 of the first boss in an overlapping state through the first
6 fastening member and an abutting portion that is arranged so
7 as to be displaced to an abutment position where the
8 abutting portion abuts on a circumferential side surface of
9 the first boss when a load is applied to the protector.

1 4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed
2 portion and the abutting portion are integrally formed by
3 bending.

1 5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a fragile
2 portion is formed at a bend between the fixed portion and
3 the abutting portion, the fragile portion having a reduced
4 thickness.

1 6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fixed
2 portion and the abutting portion are connected with each
3 other in an overlapping state.

1 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
2 a receptacle portion receiving the one end of the second
3 wall, the receptacle portion being provided on the engine
4 body.

1 8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
2 receptacle portion is a recess formed in the engine body.

1 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the engine
2 body is connected with an intake manifold arranged forward
3 of the engine body in a fore-and-aft direction of the
4 vehicle, the protector being arranged within a space defined
5 between the intake manifold and the engine body.

1 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, further comprising
2 a second fastening member fixing the protector to the intake
3 manifold.